Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship

UPDATED June 1, 2018

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter
1410 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Perlmutter:

The undersigned organizations strongly oppose proposals that would politicize the charitable nonprofit and philanthropic community by repealing or weakening current federal tax law protections that prohibit 501(c)(3) organizations from endorsing, opposing, or contributing to political candidates.

Nonpartisanship is a cornerstone principle that has strengthened the public's trust of the charitable community. In exchange for enjoying tax-exempt status and the ability to receive tax-deductible contributions, 501(c)(3) organizations – charitable nonprofits, including religious congregations, and foundations – agree to not engage in “any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.”

That provision of law protects the integrity and independence of charitable nonprofits and foundations. It shields the entire 501(c)(3) community against the rancor of partisan politics so the charitable community can be a safe haven where individuals of all beliefs come together to solve community problems free from partisan divisions. It screens out doubts and suspicions regarding ulterior partisan motives of charitable organizations, as undoubtedly would occur if even just a few charitable organizations engaged in partisan politics. Nonpartisan credibility is critical to the ability of 501(c)(3) organizations to work with elected officials of all parties at the local, state, and federal levels to address community needs.

Charitable nonprofits, including religious congregations, are free to speak on important matters of the day and advocate on public policy issues and legislation. Private foundations, while barred from most lobbying activities, are free to engage in public debates, promote public education efforts, and fund a wide range of issue-focused activities. The relevant language in Section 501(c)(3) merely prohibits partisan campaign intervention, defined to include endorsing or opposing candidates for public office, publishing or distributing statements for or against candidates, or using tax-deductible and other resources to support partisan campaign activities.

We are united in opposing any and all efforts to weaken or repeal this longstanding protection in the federal tax code (sometimes called the Johnson Amendment) that President Eisenhower signed into law in 1954. Weakening the law by allowing leaders of individual 501(c)(3) entities to endorse candidates for public office and engage in some partisan electioneering activities would damage the integrity and effectiveness of all charitable organizations and spawn litigation as innovative partisans seek to expand gray areas in the proposed legislation. Repealing the Johnson Amendment, an approach promoted by the President and some in Congress, would damage the federal Treasury as people take tax deductions for political contributions they could then funnel through charitable nonprofits, undercut fair elections by providing a loophole to avoid campaign contribution disclosure laws, and empower politicians to exert pressure for access to foundation assets and charitable funds for their own partisan campaigns rather than for the public good.
We urge you to join us in opposing efforts to weaken and/or repeal the current law that for six decades has successfully protected the integrity and effectiveness of charitable nonprofits and foundations by keeping them apart from partisan politics.

Respectfully,

[List of organizations]

Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
Colorado High School Cycling League
Colorado Music Festival and Center for Musical Arts
Colorado Nonprofit Association
Colorado Nonprofit Development Center
Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance
Colorado Pet Pantry
Colorado Women's Education Foundation
Community First Foundation
Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley
Community Resource Center
Community Shares of Colorado
Conflict Center
Crestone Performances, Inc.
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
Dante's Place
DCR, Inc.
Delta County Public Library District
Denver Asset Building Coalition
Denver Justice and Peace Committee
Denver Urban Matters
Denver's Early Childhood Council
Disability Law Colorado
Doctors Care
Downtown Aurora Visual Arts
Early Childhood Council of Larimer County
Eating Disorder Foundation
Economic Literacy Colorado
Emily Davis Consulting
English In Action
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sponsor/Program</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen Christian Outreach (ECO)</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>Parkinson Association of the Rockies</td>
<td>Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>Pueblo</td>
<td>Partners in Nonprofit Success</td>
<td>Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Bank of the Rockies</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Philanthropy Field Trips Posada</td>
<td>Pueblo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Bell County Animal Shelter</td>
<td>Pineville</td>
<td>Prentice Foundation</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Pretty Brainy</td>
<td>Loveland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Haven</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Project L.I.F.E.</td>
<td>Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLBT Community Center of CO</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Project Managers Without Borders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeley Center for Independence</td>
<td>Greeley</td>
<td>Project Safeguard</td>
<td>Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Havens Group, Inc.</td>
<td>Longmont</td>
<td>Project Self-Sufficiency of Loveland - Fort Collins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidestone Consulting</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>Restoration Project International</td>
<td>Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library</td>
<td>Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hands For Life Uptown</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain Raptor Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy Lucky's Teahouse</td>
<td>Fort Collins</td>
<td>Rose Community Foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imagination Library of Denver</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Safe Passage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>Alliance for Nonviolence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve International</td>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>Second Chance Center, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Know</td>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td>Secure World Foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction Christian Outreach Mission</td>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td>Sense of Security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Hearing Dog, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Advocate Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JBL Creative</td>
<td>Westminster</td>
<td>Shadhika Project, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFFixler Group</td>
<td>Centennial</td>
<td>Sister Carmen Community Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JR Haeck PC</td>
<td>Lakewood</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain Raptor Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior League of Denver</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Society of Asian Scientists &amp; Engineers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Kalstein Consulting</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Soul Spring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids At Their Best</td>
<td>Fort Morgan</td>
<td>Southern Ute Community Action Programs, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larimer Humane Society</td>
<td>Fort Collins</td>
<td>Team Summit Colorado</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LifeSpark Cancer Resources</td>
<td>Lakewood</td>
<td>Telluride Flights Worldwide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Hills Cares</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Children's Relief Fund</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longmont Council for the Arts</td>
<td>Longmont</td>
<td>The Arc - Arapahoe &amp; Douglas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3 Consulting</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek &amp; Gilpin Counties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKee Medical Center Foundation</td>
<td>Loveland</td>
<td>The Arc of Adams County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesa County Libraries Foundation</td>
<td>Grand Junction</td>
<td>The Arc of Aurora</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Denver Partners</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>The Arc of Larimer County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Image Arts</td>
<td>Edgewater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Minded, Inc.</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWSED Community Development Corporation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Uganda</td>
<td>Highlands Ranch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkinson Association of the Rockies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prentice Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretty Brainy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project L.I.F.E.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Managers Without Borders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Safeguard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Self-Sufficiency of Loveland - Fort Collins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoration Project International</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Mountain Raptor Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Community Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Passage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SafeHouse Denver, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Chance Center, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure World Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors' Resource Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of Security</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadhika Project, Inc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister Carmen Community Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Arapahoe &amp; Douglas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek &amp; Gilpin Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Adams County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Aurora</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Larimer County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Arapahoe &amp; Douglas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek &amp; Gilpin Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Adams County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Aurora</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Larimer County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Arapahoe &amp; Douglas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek &amp; Gilpin Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Adams County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Aurora</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Larimer County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Arapahoe &amp; Douglas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek &amp; Gilpin Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Adams County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Aurora</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Larimer County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Arapahoe &amp; Douglas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek &amp; Gilpin Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Adams County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Aurora</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Larimer County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Arapahoe &amp; Douglas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek &amp; Gilpin Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Adams County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Aurora</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Larimer County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Arapahoe &amp; Douglas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek &amp; Gilpin Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Adams County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Aurora</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Larimer County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Arapahoe &amp; Douglas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek &amp; Gilpin Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Adams County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc of Aurora</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Letter in Support of Nonpartisanship
Colorado
UDPATED June 1, 2018
Page 4

The Arc of Pueblo
The Association of Fundraising Professionals Colorado Chapter
The Community Foundation of Boulder County
The Consortium
The Denver Foundation
The Empowerment Program
The Gathering Place
The Leighty Foundation
The Lillis Foundation
The Lowry Foundation
The Shaka Franklin Foundation for Youth
The Vegetable Connection
The Women's Foundation of Colorado
Third Sector Group
TLC Meals on Wheels
Touching the World
US Center for SafeSport
Verified Volunteers
Voices Carry Child Advocacy Center
Volunteers of America Colorado Branch
We Don't Waste
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Workshop
Wildlands Restoration Volunteers
Women's Resource Center of the Rockies
Woodmoor Financial Group
Young Voices of Colorado
Pueblo
Denver
Boulder
Denver
Denver
Denver
Denver
Denver
Denver
Denver
Fort Collins
Denver
Colorado Springs
Centennial
Colorado Springs
Denver
Fort Collins
Denver
Dillon
Colorado Springs
Englewood
American Board of Venous & Lymphatic Medicine
American Brass Chamber Music Association
American Conference of Academic Deans
American Heart Association
American Historical Association
American Jewish Committee
American Medical Association Foundation
American Physiological Society
American Podiatric Medical Association, Inc.
American Red Cross
Americans for the Arts
Americans Promoting Study Abroad
Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Amyloidosis Foundation
Animal Legal Defense Fund
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Anti-Defamation League
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
Association for Jewish Outreach Professionals
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of Direct Response Fundraising Counsel
Association of Fundraising Professionals
Association of Immunization Managers
Association of Nature Center Administrators
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty
Baptist Women in Ministry
Barr Foundation
BoardSource
Brady Campaign and Center to Prevent Gun Violence
Camp Fire
Campion Foundation
Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Mobilizing Network
Celiac Disease Foundation
Center for Health, Environment & Justice
Center for Inquiry
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Citizen Schools
CleanSlateNow
Common Cause
Commonwealth Fund
Council on Foundations
Council for Global Equality
Dance USA
Dementia Society, Inc.

National Organizations

Abila
Accreditation Council for Psychoanalytic Education, Inc.
AdoptAClassroom.org
African Diaspora United, Inc.
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
America Solidaria U.S.
American Alliance of Museums
American Association of Anatomists
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of Teachers of German
American Atheists
American Bladder Cancer Society
Democracy 21  
Destination & Travel Foundation  
Dietel Partners, LLC  
Disability Rights Advocacy Fund  
Easter Seals  
Ecology Project International  
Engineering Conferences International  
Episcopal Relief & Development  
Feed the Children  
Feeding America  
Fidesco USA  
Food & Water Watch  
Ford Foundation  
Free Press  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
Girls Inc.  
Global Integrity  
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.  
Grantmakers for Effective Organizations  
Greater Nonprofits  
GuideStar  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Harbor Compliance  
HawkWatch International  
Hindu American Foundation  
Histiocytosis Foundation  
Horizons National  
Human Science Institute  
Independent Sector  
International Essential Tremor Foundation  
International Hearing Dog, Inc.  
International Performing Arts for Youth  
International Primate Protection League  
Issue One  
Jessie Ball DuPont Fund  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Federations of North America  
Leadership USA  
League of American Orchestras  
League of Women Voters  
Leukemia Research Foundation  
Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education  
Lumina Foundation  
Lymphoma Foundation of America  
Migraine Research Foundation  
Millennium Water Alliance  
Mentors International  
Morino Ventures, LLC  
National 4-H Council  
National Alliance of Community Economic Development  
National Association of Charitable Gift Planners  
National Association of Health Data Organizations  
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)  
National Association of Watch and Collectors  
National Association for Shoplifting Prevention  
NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Center for Appropriate Technology  
National Center for Fire and Life Safety  
National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome  
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy  
National Council of Behavioral Health  
National Council of Churches  
National Council of Nonprofits  
National Council of Tribes  
National Dance Education Organization  
National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence  
National Human Services Assembly  
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
National LGBTQ Task Force  
National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation  
National Runaway Safeline  
National Safe Place Network  
National Tongan American Society  
NEO Law Group  
North American Bramble Growers Research Foundation  
OPERA America  
Partnership for America’s Children  
Pension Fund of the Christian Church  
Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement  
Project Wet Foundation  
Project Managers Without Borders  
Public Citizen  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund  
Secular Coalition for America  
Senior Executives Association  
Seva Foundation  
Skillman Foundation  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Smith’s Food and Drug  
Social Velocity  
The Arc of the United States  
The Aspen Institute